

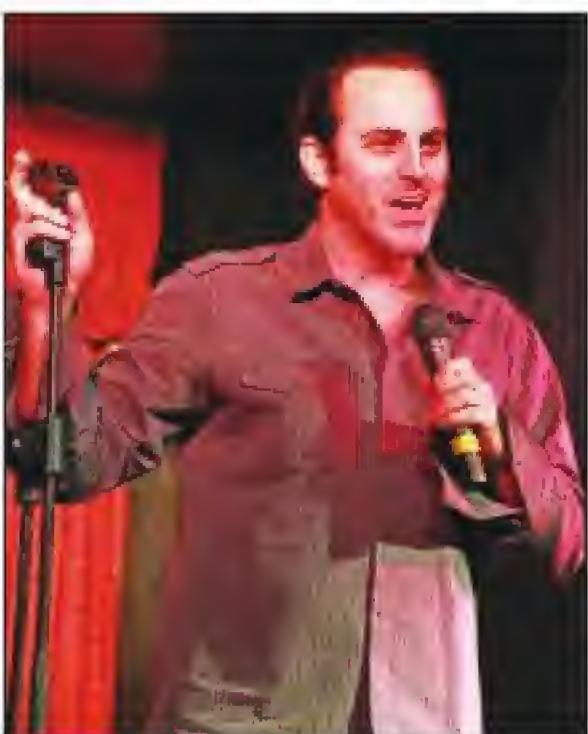
THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Comedy tonight!!

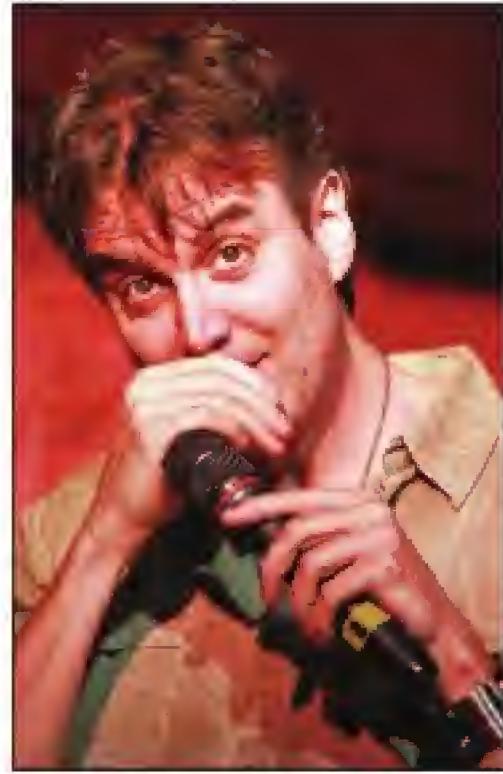
Aruba Ray's live show is back at the Westin



Aruba Ray Ellin



Ted Alejandro



Brian Scott Macfadden

PALM BEACH - Continuing his love affair with Aruba and audiences, funnyman Ray Ellin returns for a two-week run of his popular "Aruba

Ray's Comedy Show" in the Westin Resort cabaret. The host and MC was dubbed "Aruba Ray" by his fellow comedians for his dedication to the island, where he retreats regularly to recharge.

Joining him on stage again is Brian Scott MacFadden, whose sharp observations on relationships, news programs, and life had the audiences in stitches for the first night of Ray's current show. Newcomer to Aruba Ted Alejandro is a thinking man's comedian, with wry commentary on life's foibles.

Ray Ellin has appeared on numerous television programs on Comedy Central, NBC, ABC, and CBS, and is the host of the new "Gong Show Live," a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He was the

host of the popular talk show "Late Net," and hosted the television shows "The Movie Loft," "Brain Fuel," and "New York Now." He also produced and directed the film "The Latin Legends of Comedy."

Brian Scott MacFadden was recently on "The David Letterman Show" and the "Craig

Ferguson show," and is now appearing in the Ben Stiller movie "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." Those with children may recognize some of his versatile voices from such animated films as "Ice Age," "Robots," and "Epic."

Ted Alejandro channels

his five years as an elementary school music teacher before pursuing his avocation in stand up full time, into his humor. He has appeared on the "Late Show with David Letterman," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "Jimmy Kimmel Live!," "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson," and two half-hour Comedy Central Presents specials. He has also appeared on "Oz," "Louie" and "Inside Amy Schumer".

Brian and Ted will be appearing with Ray through Monday, January 20. Ray will then welcome repeat guest Wali Collins, has performed all over the U.S. and Europe as well as for both President Obama and President Bush. Another newcomer to Aruba, Lenny Marcus, will fill out the bill until January 29.

Tickets for the shows can be purchased at the Westin guest services desk for \$34 per ticket, which includes a \$40 slot play coupon and raffle ticket for valuable prizes. Full bar is available without a minimum or cover charge, during the show and there are also dinner packages available. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at 8:00 PM and the show starts at 9:00 PM. For more information call the Westin Resort and Casino 297-586-4466.

THE MORNING NEWS checked out the show on opening night this past Tuesday, and we can assure audiences they will enjoy an evening of original, terrific comedy. This is the real deal, in stand up humor for mature audiences.

By Rosalie Klein

 **ArubaTripAdvisor.com**
Are you ready!

Airlines cheer US spending bill sparing flight fee hike

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Air travelers will avoid some new taxes this year after Congress scrapped a proposal to raise fees on international tickets, a move the industry applauded as a victory for passengers.

The Senate version of the \$1 trillion spending bill had proposed hiking the immigration inspection user fee from \$7 to \$9 per international ticket, but the compromise version of the legislation, which is expected to pass Congress this week, dropped the fee increase.

Lawmakers had already earned the ire of US airlines and consumer groups last month when Congress raised another Transportation Security Administration (TSA) fee as a way to help pay for ending billions of dollars in crippling automatic cuts to federal spending.

That move more than doubles the "9/11 Aviation Security Fee" from \$2.50 per flight segment to \$5.60, generating some \$13 billion over a decade.

Nicholas Calio, president

and chief executive of industry trade group Airlines for America (A4A), thanked House leaders for supporting "an appropriations bill that does not increase taxes or fees on airlines or our customers."

"We appreciate the leadership for recognizing the importance of commercial aviation to the economy and jobs by putting forward a funding bill that will help ensure that air travel can continue unfettered," he added.

A4A had mobilized a lobbying effort last year to oppose both fee hikes, arguing they would be a drag on the massive industry.

Passengers are already paying an average of \$61 in taxes and fees on a typical \$300 domestic round-trip ticket.

The TSA, tasked with protecting airports, nevertheless got hit hard in the new spending omnibus.

Funding to the Department of Homeland Security will shrink by \$336 million, with most of those reductions reportedly at TSA.

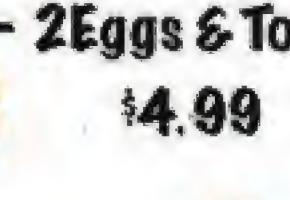


A tribute to Bacchanal Carnival magazine who is also celebrating its 15th anniversary in Aruba's Diamond Jubilee Carnival year. Begun 15 years ago as a school project, "Bacchanal," the island's official magazine of Carnival, has become the "bible" to which most islanders turn to find out what is happening over the months of this grand celebration. Photo depicts the unveiling of the first Bacchanal for Carnaval 45. (story on pg 2)

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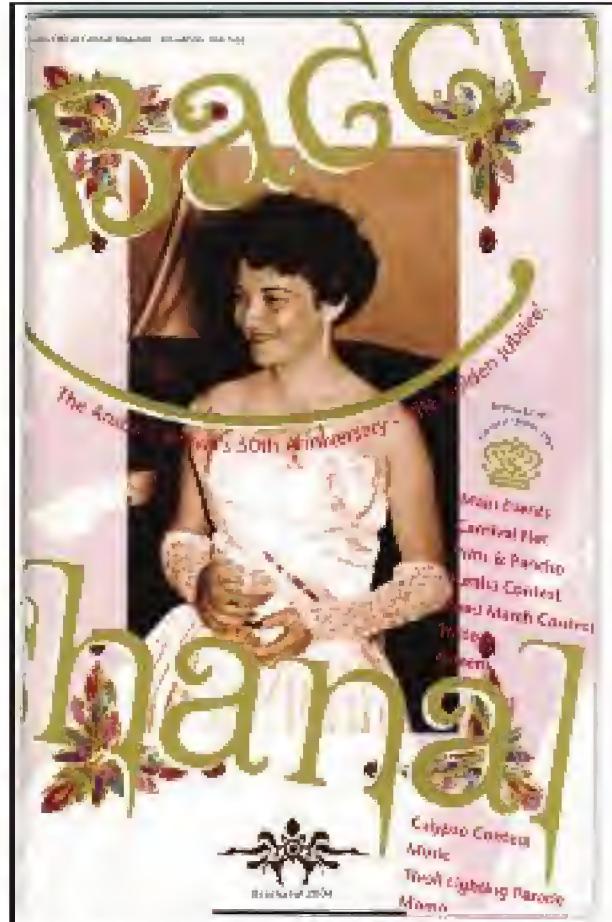

Bacchanal and Chibi van der Hans, a Carnival institution



Chibi presenting the first issue to PM and Minister of Tourism



Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber and Chibi van der Hans unveil the Diamond Jubilee cover



The Golden Jubilee tribute edition

ORANJESTAD -- Begun 15 years ago as a school project, "Bacchanal," the island's official magazine of Carnival, has become the "bible" to which most islanders turn to find out what is happening over the months of this grand celebration. It is a fantastic source for fully understanding Aruba's most important cultural event. It is only fitting to pay tribute to this

enormous effort and dedication to this beautiful publication during this Diamond Jubilee year.

The magazine is a manifestation of the artistic talent and single-handed devotion to carnival by Friedrich (Chibi) van der Hans, designer, photographer, editor and publisher. He originally created the magazine to be his graduation thesis while attending the Minerva Art Academy in Groningen, Holland in 1995, where he obtained degrees in Graphic Art and Photography.

"I chose to make a magazine of carnival as my thesis because I wished to create a medium to best introduce to Holland something of Aruba" he explains. "I can think of nothing better than carnival to do so, as it has everything that sums up all aspects of island culture. It demonstrates every phase of the arts, visual and performing. There is original musical composition and choreography, fashion design and creative art in the

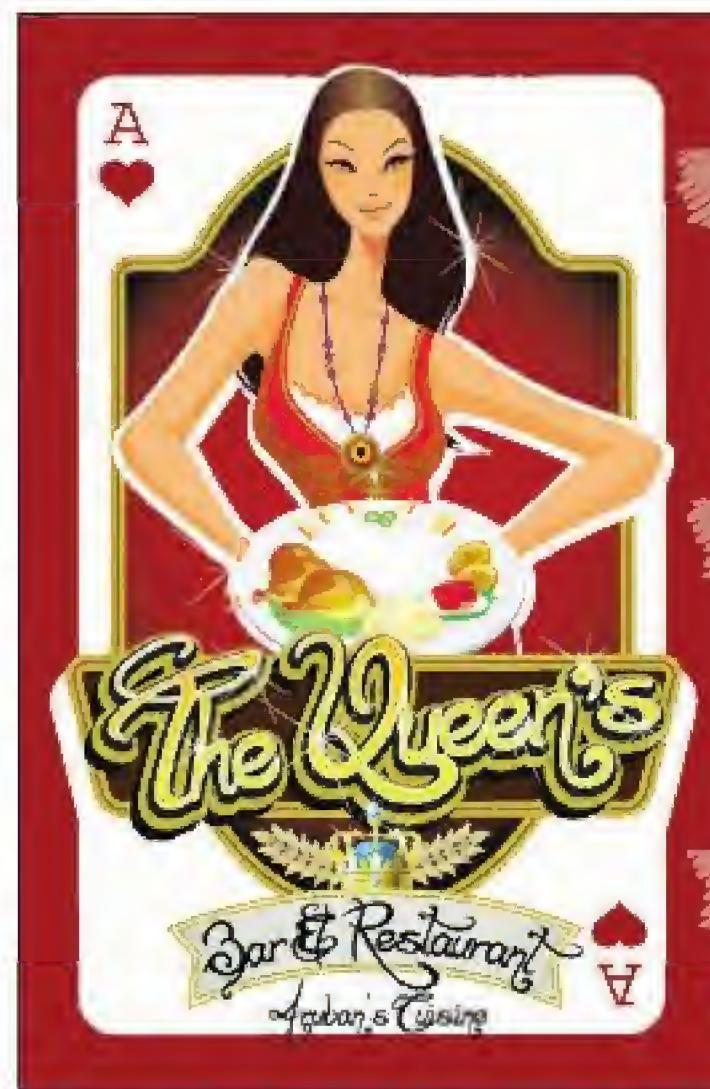
construction of trailers and costumes; every artful discipline is represented, even comedy and drama during the Prins & Pancho elections. Carnival is a huge achievement, with the process and

enormous effort repeated year after year."

"I also felt that such a magazine was needed to truly recognize and acknowledge those groups and individuals who dedicate so much time,

work and creativity to the institution. To my knowledge, there was no publication that created a tangible history of each year's carnival prior to my first issue."

Continued on pg 4



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Government to inspire more citizens to invest in farming, fisheries and livestock production

ORANJESTAD -- Minister Oduber presented his management plan for 2013-2014 during a recent press conference. In his presentation he gave special attention and explanation to his plans for the primary sector.

The government has done much to put Santo Rosa back on its feet. The intention is to do everything possible to keep Santo Rosa increasing their local production. The government intends to inspire more citizens to begin doing agriculture, fisheries and live stock farming.

This year the government will continue their projects such as the installation of the UV filter unit at the RWZI in Parkietenbos. This will provide farmers and livestock breeders water during the entire year so that they can be less dependant on rainwater.

The government will also give attention to the various cisterns (dams) around the island. They will investigate to determine what are the difficulties and origin or reason water becomes salt and what are the possibilities for solving this problem.

They also intend to start the wind mill Project. Last December 2013 they installed two wind mills. A third wind mill is ready to be installed in 2014. This project provides for water to our farmers and live stock breeders.

Accessibility of water and the land situation are factors that will receive much attention from the government are what the Minister promised this sector.

The government's goal is to develop this sector into a primary and important economic sector.

For the first time a house to be raffled with utility bills covered for one year! Aruba Lions Club house raffle will be held on Valentine's Day



ORANJESTAD -- "It is a yearly tradition and as this year the prize is much bigger the interest is also higher, said Lions Club President representative Edwin Tromp. The service club is ready to raffle its 57th house on Friday, February 14th, 2014. An understanding was reached with the well-known housing company Cas Bon N.V. who constructed the house at Amistad #20 in a new residential area at Paradera. The raffle will go for the usual Afl. 25 but, together with that this year the utility companies came together to present the winner with a wonderful gift: one year of electricity, water, telephone and cable covered!

The house is build on a 101 square meter property land and consists of a three-bedroom, two bathrooms and

is practically done, so as soon as the new owner wins it they will be able to move in immediately!

The community is requested an additional help this year. The intention is, as the prize has become more attractive a bigger support of the community is also expected, this way supporting the Aruba Lions Club to help those less fortunate in the community. The Lions Club

of Aruba conducts many projects beneficial to the community, such as blood drives or providing specialized bedding for invalids being cared for in the family home. To be able to get these materials and many other services offered by the club, extra funds are needed.

Tickets can be purchased through any Lions Club member in your neighborhood.

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Slots open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 AM

Tables open from Noon to 4:00 AM



For more information, please contact our Players Advantage Club at 586 1234 ext. 4583



Bacchanal and Chibi van der Hans, a Carnival institution

Cont. from pg 2

Chibi also initiated what has become a beloved tradition: inaugurating carnival at 11/11/11, when members of SAC, the Stichting Arubaanse Carnival, which administrates events, officially opens the coming season at 11:00 AM on the eleventh day of November, the eleventh month of the year. In numerology it is date considered to carry great luck, and celebrating on this day the start of carnival dates back centuries to German history. After researching this, Chibi's findings were reinforced by then President of SAC, Milio Croes, and the first Bacchanal was launched on that date in 1998.

Bacchanal is distributed for free at most gas stations, stationary stores and can be

found at the offices of any of the advertisers. Chibi informs there are still a few copies left for this year's edition, and he can be contacted at 582-4868 to obtain issues. Aside from a complete schedule of all upcoming events, it imparts a lively history of the various parades, carnival royalty elections and music contests, in both Papiamento and English. This makes it an ideal medium for vacationers to truly understand and appreciate the importance of various events.

After sixteen years of publishing Bacchanal, Chibi is only looking to make it bigger and better. His Carnival 60 edition was unveiled during a gala fashion event at the Westin Resort as the grand finale of the Aruba In Style

2013 Fashion Week. The organizers of Aruba In Style felt Bacchanal has had a definitive influence on Aruba's carnival, just as carnival has influenced the island's vibrant fashion sense.

Future plans for the publication include a website, which will also include a photo gallery of the current contests and parades. He plans to work with the carnival groups so that interested parties can also inscribe to join in carnival from his website. Additionally, he was selected as part of the committee charged with establishing an official carnival museum in San Nicolas, by Minister Mike de Meza, who initiated the Carnival Village project.

In Chibi's opinion, interest

and enthusiasm for Aruba's carnival is unflagging. Each year it grows with new events, and he looks forward

to chronicling each and every one.

By Rosalie Klein

Carnaval Schedule

Fri. Jan 17 - Children's Queen Election of Sta. Cruz

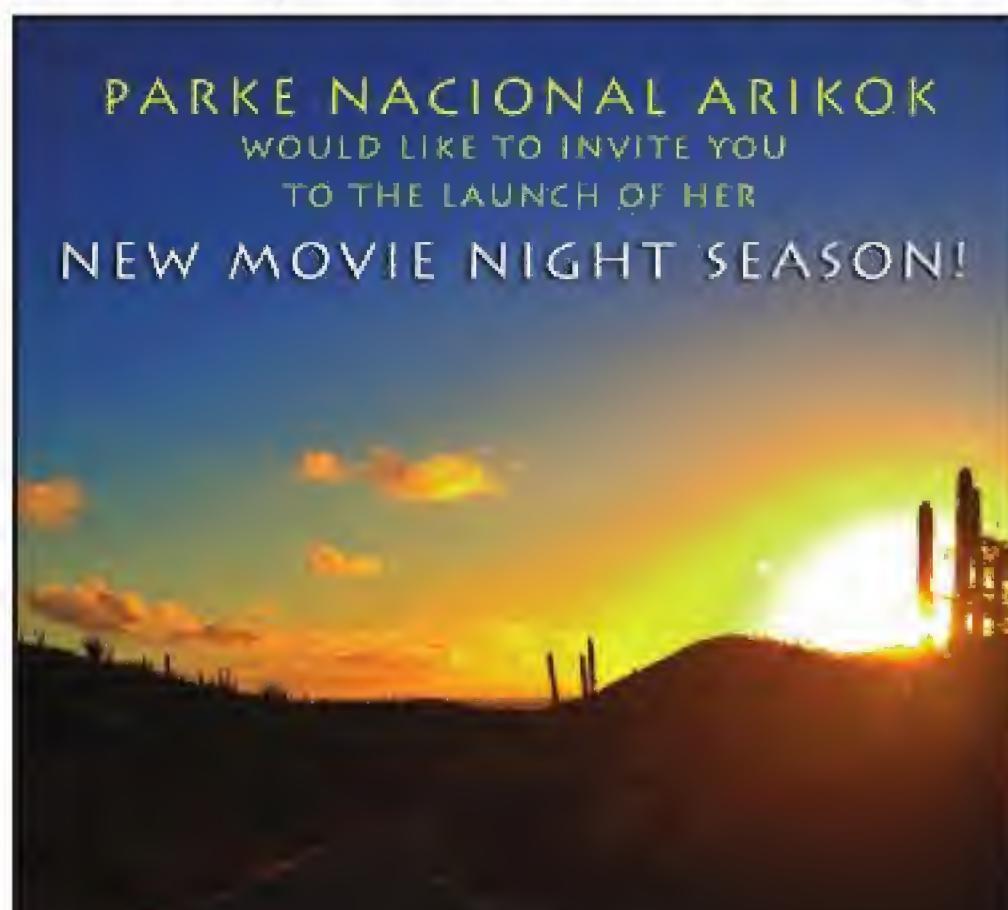
Sat. Jan 18 - 6:30 p.m.: Aruba's Children and Youth Calypso & Roadmarch Contest 2014 (Aruba Entertainment Center)

Sun. Jan 19 - 8:00 p.m.: Sign up Happening Caiso & Soca Monarch Contest 2014 (Aruba Entertainment Center)



Arikok launches new Season of Movie Night at the Park on January 18, FREE of charge!

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ARIKOK

SAN FUEGO - On Saturday January 18 Arikok National Park starts a new season of its highly popular monthly activity, Movie Night at the Park, showing documentaries with a focus on nature and the importance of nature conservation. During the upcoming movie night double episodes of the Planet Earth series Saving Species and Into the Wilderness will be shown. The Movie Night at the Park starts at 7:30 pm and finishes at 9:30 pm.

Visitors of all ages, tourists and locals alike, can enjoy this movie night in the magnificent setting of Aruba's national park, under a starlit sky. By offering this unique opportunity the Park aims to reach a broad target group and create more awareness for the importance of nature.

The Movie Night at the

Park is free of charge and takes place in front of the Visitor Center at the main entrance of the Park in San Fuego. A food and beverage stand is available, offering local drinks and snacks at a small fee. Chairs are provided as well, however you are allowed to bring your own chairs or blankets and your own picnic baskets.

The Arikok Facebook page provides exact dates of the Park's monthly movie night during the remainder of the year. Usually the movie night takes place each last Saturday of the month. Due to a bat monitoring project the Movie Night at the Park in January will take place on Saturday January 18th.

For more information please visit www.arubanationalpark.org or Facebook.com/ArikokNationalPark.

The Movie Night at the

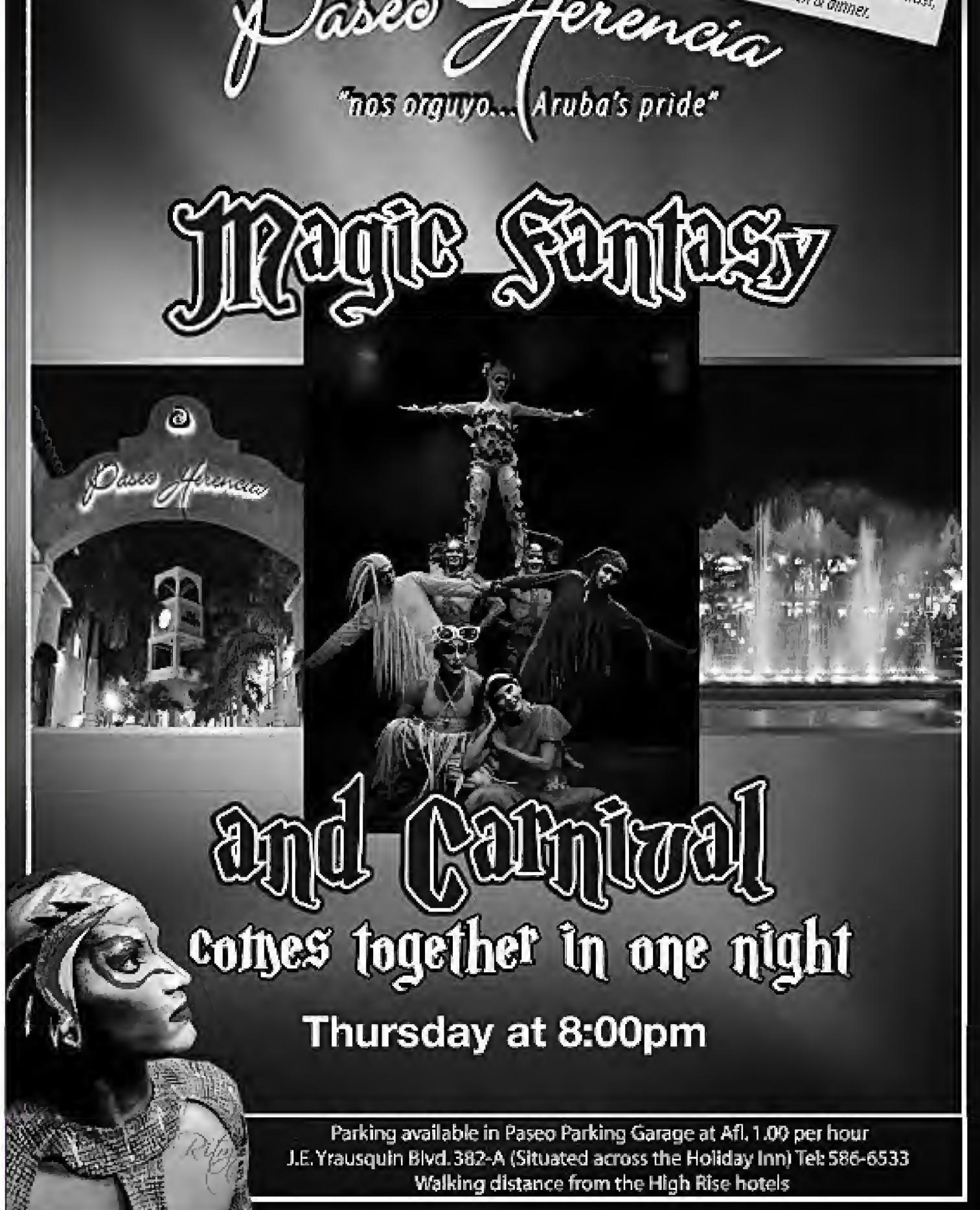
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Aruban Donkey Foundation organizes its annual Walkathon

ORANJESTAD -- The annual Walkathon, a brisk walk through Aruba's wonderful countryside, has become a tradition in the month of January. On Saturday, January 18, the event will take place for the ninth consecutive year. Registration starts at 4 pm at the Ayo Rock Formation; the walk starts at 5 pm.

Participants and accompanying donkeys will take a 6.5 km walk through Aruba's countryside: a healthy and energizing activity. Afterwards your registration ticket might make you a winner of wonderful prizes.

Of course it will be Super Food supermarket that takes care of fruit at the finish.

The volunteers of the Donkey Sanctuary hope that many people will help make this Walkathon a success. Proceeds will entirely go towards the building of new



stables for the donkeys at Bringaosa, the new site of the sanctuary. So please, get up from your easy chair and

come along to support the Aruban donkeys with a healthy activity. Everyone, young and old, is welcome!



US House passes bipartisan \$1.1 trillion spending bill

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US House of Representatives on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a \$1.1 trillion spending bill for fiscal year 2014, capping months-long negotiations and marking a truce in three years of fiscal battles plaguing Washington.

The measure, which funds federal government under the budget framework hammered out by Democrats and Republicans last month, passed 359-67, in a strong show of bipartisanship that belies the intense bickering that has marked recent debates over how -- and how much -- to fund government.

It now heads to the Senate, where it is expected to pass this week before being signed into law by President Barack Obama.

"It was very, very difficult, but we did it," said House Democrat Barbara Lee, stressing that the compromise agreement "gets us out of this cycle of government by crisis."

It also eliminates the threat of a government shutdown this month, similar to the one that paralyzed Washington for 16 days in October when Congress failed to agree on a budget.

And with nearly three-quarters of Republicans voting for the bill, it marks a rejection of the faction of Tea Party conservatives and activists staunchly opposed to virtually any increased spending.

Groups like Heritage Action, the political arm of the conservative Heritage Foundation think-tank, urged lawmakers to oppose the bill for blowing past spending levels set by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Jenny Beth Martin, who co-founded Tea Party Patriots, noted how the 1,582-page "monstrosity" was introduced two nights earlier and was "rushed to a vote before Congress can read it."

The high-stakes spending bill sets discretionary limits line by line for each federal agency until September 30, when fiscal year 2014 ends.

In addition to the discretionary \$1.012 trillion, the measure includes \$92 billion for foreign contingency operations, mainly the war in Afghanistan, and \$6.5 billion for extraordinary expenses

linked to natural disasters.

But the bill comes with a caveat that could prove a sticking point with Kabul. It halts aid to Afghanistan unless the country signs on to a new bilateral security agreement.

It also essentially blocks any new spending on the president's health care reforms known as Obamacare, but it funds pre-kindergarten initiatives like Head Start to a surprisingly high level of \$8.6 billion, a reported 13 percent over current funding.

"This bill is not perfect, I hate to tell you, but it is a good one," said veteran congressman Hal Rogers, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee who steered the spending negotiations.

Republicans hailed the deal for slashing discretionary spending for the fourth year in row.

And "by placing the power of the purse back in the hands of Congress and away from the executive branch, our representative Democracy is functioning the way our founders had intended," number three House Republican Kevin McCarthy said in a statement.

Despite the savings trend, overall federal expenditures were set to rise slightly in 2014 as the deal erases painful and automatic spending cuts that were due to kick in on January 1 for the next two years.

The discretionary budget only represents about a third of federal public spending.

It does not include mandatory spending, such as the Medicare insurance program for the elderly and Social Security, set to reach \$2.196 trillion in 2014, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Overall, the deficit which reached 4.1 percent of gross domestic product in 2013 is set to drop over the next decade. The CBO said it would fall to 2.3 percent of GDP in 2015.

But despite the federal savings, US borrowing authority is expected to reach its limit by early March. That debt ceiling will need to be raised by Congress if the US Treasury is to pay its bills, setting up a potential fiscal showdown in Washington.

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US labor board files complaint on Walmart violations

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US National Labor Relations Board issued a formal complaint Wednesday against giant retailer Walmart, saying it violated labor rules by threatening and punishing workers who joined pro-union protests.

The complaint says that the country's largest employer and a longtime foe of unions violated employee rights in 14 states during the November 2012 Thanksgiving holiday protests.

The NLRB complaint, which consolidates a number of separate cases, involves more than 60 employees, including 19 who were fired or laid off illegally after taking part in the protests.

It names 60 Walmart supervisors and one corporate officer for taking action against workers that allegedly

violated their rights.

At stores in numerous states, Walmart "unlawfully threatened, disciplined and/or terminated employees" for legally joining the protests and engaging in other legal activities that November, the NLRB said in a statement.

The NLRB issued the complaint after giving the company time to reach settlements with complainants that did not resolve the problems.

The complaint deal with a nationwide campaign by pro-union Walmart workers and supporters from union groups during the 2012 Thanksgiving weekend, normally the heaviest shopping period of the year.

The protesters highlighted the company's low wages and tough working conditions, garnering widespread media attention.

UN's Ban asks Nigeria to review law against homosexuality

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - UN chief Ban Ki-moon asked Nigeria to review a new law against homosexuality, fearing it "may fuel prejudice and violence," his spokesman said Wednesday. Under the law, same-sex couples who live together or attempt to solemnize their union with a ceremony can be punished with 14 years in prison.

"The secretary general strongly hopes that the constitutionality of the law can be reviewed," spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

Ban "fears that the law may fuel prejudice and violence" and also believes that it "risks obstructing effective responses to HIV/AIDS," Nesirky said.



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Police arrest two over gang-rape of Danish tourist in Delhi

NEW DELHI (AFP) - New Delhi police arrested two homeless men Wednesday over the alleged gang-rape of a 51-year-old Danish tourist who lost her way near the main backpacker's area of the Indian capital.

The woman approached the suspects for directions early on Tuesday evening while trying to return to her hotel in the bustling Paharganj district of the Indian capital, reportedly after visiting a city museum.

Up to six "youngsters" dragged her to a secluded part of a garden near the New Delhi railway station where they robbed and assaulted her at knife-point, police said.

She was travelling alone and had arrived in the capital on Monday after visiting the Taj Mahal in the northern city of Agra, staff at her hotel said.

The alleged attack in an area popular with tourists in the heart of the city is the latest involving a foreigner in India, and again raises questions

about the safety of women in the world's second most populous country.

Despite tougher laws and efforts to change attitudes to women in India's deeply patriarchal society, the number of reported sex crimes continues to rise.

Police said both arrested men, one of whom was a 25-year-old migrant from nearby Uttar Pradesh, were homeless and sleeping rough at New Delhi railway station.

They were both found to be carrying possessions belonging to the victim, including an iPod music player and a spectacles case.

A senior investigating policeman told AFP Wednesday on condition of anonymity that they were searching for between four and six men who appeared to be "vagabonds".

Female tourists in Paharganj said they were aware of past cases and the new incident had rung alarm bells.

Protests over sexual violence

in the past year have prompted India's parliament to toughen laws for rapists and other offenders, while other judicial and police reforms have encouraged women to report attacks.

But daily accounts of brutal assaults continue to be reported in the country's newspapers.

A schoolgirl was raped by eight men in the eastern city of Ranchi this week while they held her male friend, the Hindustan Times reported on Wednesday.

A judge last month sentenced three Nepalese men to 20 years in jail for the gang-rape of a US tourist in June in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh.

Brigid McCaffrey, another backpacker from New Zealand, said news of the latest assault had come as a shock "but considering in the last year what's been happening in India with women, maybe not so much".

Colombia president yields to court in mayor's ouster



BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos said Wednesday he would abide by a court order temporarily suspending the controversial ouster of the mayor of Bogota.

"Of course we are always respecting the rulings of the courts and that is our obligation. That's what we swore to do," Santos said in an interview with Caracol Radio.

Administrative court judge Jose Armenta on Tuesday said Santos was directed not to enforce the ouster ordered by Colombia's inspector general.

He gave the lawyers of Bogota Mayor Gustavo Petro 10 days to show that their client's rights had been violated.

The inspector general has accused the 53-year-old former leftist guerrilla of violating constitutional principles by ending the awarding of trash collection concessions to private companies.

Petro, who was elected to a four-year term in 2011, was also banned from holding public office for 15 years.

The action set off street protests by Petro's supporters, but on Monday the inspector general's office reaffirmed its decision, turning down an appeal.

"This is a case where the president of the republic has to stick to the constitution, to the laws, to the institutions," Santos said.

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FDA warns against high-dose prescription acetaminophen



NEW YORK - The Food and Drug Administration is asking doctors to stop prescribing combination medications that contain more than 325 milligrams of acetaminophen per pill, because of long-standing concerns about liver damage. The move, announced Tuesday, is one of a series of actions the FDA is taking to limit high-dose use of the popular painkiller. FDA already has asked drug-makers to stop producing combination prescription medications with higher doses. More than half of manufacturers have complied, according to the FDA statement. The products typically combine acetaminophen with opioid painkillers, such as hydrocodone and codeine, and are commonly prescribed after injuries, surgeries and dental procedures.

Liechtenstein closes its only maternity ward

GENEVA (AFP) - Liechtenstein will close its only maternity ward, where some 200 babies are born each year, after all the gynaecologists working there quit at the same time, the government said Wednesday.

"The government regrets the closure of the maternity ward," Health Minister Mauro Pedrazzini said in a statement.

The doctors had decided to leave amid uncertainty over the future of the establishment, the authorities in the tiny land-locked country between Switzerland and Austria explained, saying the ward would close for good during the spring.

The citizens of Liechtenstein in 2011 rejected by popular

vote to dish out the cash needed to build a new hospital building and replace the ageing infrastructure.

Since then, the authorities in the country of fewer than 37,000 people, have been struggling to push through a modernisation plan for the maternity ward to bring it up to the standards demanded by the doctors working there.

Each year, some 200 babies are born at the ward, while another some 200 babies are born to Liechtenstein citizens who decide to travel abroad to give birth, mainly to neighbouring Switzerland and Austria.

Once the Liechtenstein ward closes, all young Liechtensteiners will be born abroad.

US Supreme Court takes up controversial abortion issue, again

WASHINGTON (AFP) - More than four decades after legalizing abortion, the US Supreme Court returns to the hot-button issue Wednesday in a case about the right to protest near clinics that terminate pregnancies.

The high court is due to hear a challenge on the ground of free speech rights to a Massachusetts law that sets a buffer zone around the entrance to abortion clinics.

"Pro-life" and "pro-choice" activists are expected to wave their banners outside the Supreme Court steps during the debate.

Surprising court watchers and despite an increased number of appeals, the nine justices chose to weigh in on the per-

ipheral issue, shunning the heart of the controversy and a potential return to the court's 1973 "Roe v. Wade" decision that legalized abortion.

On Monday, they refused to take up an Arizona law that largely banned abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy after an appellate court struck it down as unconstitutional last year.

It was the second time this term that the court decided against reviving a new abortion control law, after removing from its docket an Oklahoma law that limited doctors' ability to perform medical abortions.

The court also let stand a state court decision invalidating limits on a so-called abortion pill.

In the latest case before the court, seven pro-life militants cited the free speech rights under the First Amendment of the US Constitution to contest a Massachusetts law barring them from protesting in a 30-foot (10-meter) buffer zone around the entrance, exit and private access of abortion clinics.

In an editorial, The New York Times stressed that while the right to free speech is officially the question before the court, "the broader issue at stake is protecting women's access to abortion, which is under assault around the country by lawmakers and protesters alike."

The ruling, expected in late June, could have an impact in other states.

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Drugs found at Bieber home after egg-attack raid: police

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Detectives searching pop singer Justin Bieber's Los Angeles mansion over an egg-throwing attack seized illegal drugs and arrested one of the singer's associates on Tuesday, officials said.

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department officer Dave Thompson said an individual was arrested after the drugs were discovered in "plain view" as deputies combed through Bieber's luxury home in the upmarket enclave of Calabasas.

Around a dozen detectives swooped on the 19-year-old star's home early Tuesday, probing allegations that the Canadian teen idol was responsible for causing thousands of dollars in damage to a neighbor's house after pelting it with eggs.

Thompson said an investigation into a "felony crime" was ongoing, with the neighbor claiming as much as \$20,000 in damage was caused.

On the narcotics arrest, he initially said the drug found on the premises was cocaine, but his department later back-tracked on that statement.

"Nothing is confirmed," another spokeswoman for the sheriff's department, Sergeant Carmen Arballo, told AFP.

Another sheriff's spokesman told The Los Angeles Times it could be a form of ecstasy.

Celebrity news website TMZ, which generally has solid sources, said the man arrested was rapper Lil Za, one of Bieber's close friends.

Bieber, who was in the home during the raid, had been neither "arrested or exonerated" in connection with the vandalism case, Thompson said.

Over the Christmas holidays, Bieber said on Twitter that he was "officially retiring."



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Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr to perform at Grammys



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Former Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr will perform at the Grammys later this month, as the legendary group is given a lifetime achievement award, organizers said Tuesday.

It was not immediately known what the duo will play at the ceremony, music's biggest honors, on January 26 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

But their performance will provide a colorful warm-up for the special Beatles tribute show organized by the Recording Academy on the night after the Grammys.

The event -- to be televised on February 9, exactly 50

years after the group's iconic Ed Sullivan show appearance -- will feature a parade of top talent performing the Fab Four's hits.

At the Grammys, McCartney is up for two awards as a solo artist: best rock song for "Cut Me Some Slack" and for best music film for "Live Kisses."

While McCartney has sung before on the Grammys stage, it will be a first for Starr, according to the Academy.

Among the nominated artists scheduled to perform are rappers Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, country's Keith Urban, pop star Taylor Swift and French electropop duo Daft Punk.

Cartoonist summoned after offending Ecuador's Correa



QUITO (AFP) - Ecuador's new media regulator, considered a censorship tool by the opposition, has opened proceedings against a press cartoonist whose drawing was considered offensive by President Rafael Correa. Xavier Bonilla, who works for El Universo, one of Ecuador's main newspapers, which is known for its critical tone against the president, told AFP he had received notification of a summons Tuesday evening. At the beginning of the year, Correa, a socialist leader known for his open conflict with the media and business sectors, announced his intention to file a complaint with the regulator against Bonilla. The drawing in question concerned a police search at the home of an advisor to opposition deputy Clever Jimenez, who Correa accuses of spying and who says he has evidence of government corruption. The cartoon caption says police confiscated "allegations of corruption," a phrase the Ecuadorian president has challenged. El Universo has been prosecuted for insulting Correa in the past, and Bonilla said he could be forced to publish a retraction, apology and even pay a fine. The opposition lawmaker had accused Correa of crimes against humanity for his response to a 2010 police mutiny, violence that left 10 dead and 274 wounded. Correa branded the accusation an attempted coup.

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Snowden leaks may be 'lethal' for troops: lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Fugitive intelligence contractor Edward Snowden's theft of 1.7 million secret documents could potentially put US military forces in "lethal" danger worldwide, American lawmakers warned, citing a confidential Pentagon report.

The Defense Department prepared and sent to prominent members of Congress a classified paper analyzing the potential impact of revelations by the former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor.

The report itself was not made public.

Defense Intelligence Agency chief Lieutenant General Michael Flynn formed a Pentagon task force dubbed the "Information Review Task Force-2" shortly after Snowden's theft of classified files was discovered, a DIA spokesman told AFP.

The DIA-led taskforce worked in coordination with other members of the intelligence community, the military services and the combatant commands.

"The goal was to assess the potential impact to the Department of Defense from the compromise of this information," the spokesman added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Only an initial assessment was provided to lawmakers and the task force "continues its work as additional informa-



tion is reviewed," according to the spokesman.

Snowden has disclosed details of US intelligence-gathering operations, but lawmakers warned that the leaker's illegal haul includes a large amount of classified military data.

"This report confirms my greatest fears -- Snowden's real acts of betrayal place America's military men and women at greater risk," House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers said in a joint statement with the panel's top Democrat Dutch Ruppersberger.

The actions by Snowden, who is currently in Moscow under temporary asylum, "are likely to have lethal consequences for our troops in the field," Rogers added.

Snowden and his supporters argue that his revelation of details of secret US programs that hoover up vast amounts of telephone and Internet data on virtually every American was merely a mission to defend civil liberties.

The disclosures have triggered a monumental debate in the United States over the balance between personal freedoms and fighting terrorism, but have also sparked uproar against Washington amid revelations the NSA had tapped mobile phones of world leaders including that of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

While the global media has zeroed in on the intelligence collection, the congressmen insisted that many documents scooped up by Snowden contain "vital" military operational details which could cause "irreparable harm" if they are obtained by US enemies.

"Snowden handed terrorists a copy of our country's playbook and now we are paying the price," Ruppersberger said.

"We have begun to see terrorists changing their methods because of the leaks and this report indicates that the harm to our country and its citizens will only continue to endure."

The lawmakers' reaction to the report came on the same day President Barack Obama met with US lawmakers, including critics of the NSA surveillance operations, to discuss possible reforms to the programs.

On Wednesday, Obama met the heads of the NSA, CIA, FBI and the director of national intelligence to discuss proposed changes to the programs.

NSA taps offline computers with secret bug: report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US National Security Agency has developed a secret technology to spy on computers via radio signals, gathering information even when the devices are offline, a report said Wednesday. The New York Times reported that the NSA has implanted software on 100,000 computers around the world to be able to conduct surveillance, and which gives the spy agency "a digital highway" for launching cyberattacks. The Times, citing unnamed sources, said the agency has used the program code-named Quantum since at least 2008, relying on a covert channel of radio waves that can be transmitted from tiny circuit boards and cards inserted surreptitiously into the computers. It said the radio technology has helped solve a key problem for US intelligence agencies, by getting into computers of adversaries that are hardened against attacks. But it noted that the radio frequency hardware must in most cases be physically inserted by a spy, a manufacturer or an unwitting user. The report said the NSA and its Pentagon partner, United States Cyber Command, have used these techniques against the Chinese Army, which has been accused of cyberattacks on US firms.

Apple to refund \$32.5 mn for kids' app purchases

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Apple has agreed to refund at least \$32.5 million to US customers for children's purchases from its online App Store without parental consent, US regulators said Wednesday.

The Federal Trade Commission said Apple also agreed to modify its practice -- which until now had allowed children to make purchases on an iPhone or iPad 15 minutes after a password was entered.

FTC chairwoman Edith Ramirez said Apple failed to inform parents of the 15-

minute window that could allow children to make purchases ranging from one dollar to \$100 for each app.

Ramirez told reporters that because of the loophole, "children ran up millions of dollars in charges without their parents' knowledge and consent," a violation of federal rules.

Consumers "will be obtaining full redress" for any unauthorized charges, she added.

Ramirez said the FTC believes there are "many thousands of consumers which were impacted" and could get refunds.



Current as of: 01/15/2014

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.64
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.96
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	197.54
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	244.77
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.09
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.04
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.68
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	172.54
(per 10,000)				

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IMF sees global growth, deflation risks rising

WASHINGTON (AFP) - International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said Wednesday that growth in the global economy was picking up, but warned of the "rising risks" of deflation.

"Momentum strengthened in the latter half of 2013, and should strengthen further in 2014 -- largely due to improvements in the advanced economies," Lagarde said in a speech at the National Press Club in Washington.

The IMF managing director, however, declined to put numbers on the growth rate ahead of next week's update of the Fund's official forecasts.

But she pointed out that global growth, five years after the financial crisis, remains below its potential of about four percent a year, resulting in a tame risk of inflation worldwide.

"With inflation running below many central banks' targets, we see rising risks of deflation, which could prove disastrous for the recovery," she said. "Global growth is still too low, too fragile, and too uneven."

Lagarde stressed that the 188-nation IMF can play "an especially valuable role" in

fostering cooperation and coordination in the interconnected world.

"We need to continue to adapt and to reflect the changing dynamics of the global economy and our membership. That is why we need the continued support of our entire membership," she said, stressing the word "entire".

Lagarde was peppered with questions from the audience about the US Congress's exclusion of an IMF funding measure that had been proposed by the Obama administration in a budget compromise reached late Monday.

Without the funding measure, the United States, the IMF's largest stakeholder, will continue to block key IMF quota and governance reforms approved in 2010.

The reform includes doubling the IMF's quotas, increasing its crisis-lending capacity, giving more voice to underrepresented dynamic emerging-market countries, and reducing the European representation on the executive board.

Lagarde said she hoped that Congress's decision is "a question of timing and not a question of a determination to exclude the IMF."

She argued that the Washington-based IMF is a positive force in the global economy, promoting financial stability, and the United States, the world's largest economy, benefits from that.

The commitment to complete the reform was by the end of 2012, and two years later its prospects remain unclear as vital US support is lacking.

"As a lead economy, as the key partner at the table, the United States of America are bound to support the institution."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



S&P 500 at new record on solid earnings, economic data

NEW YORK (AFP) - The S&P 500 Wednesday closed at a new record following a batch of mostly solid economic and corporate earnings reports, and a modestly upbeat Federal Reserve report.

The S&P 500 jumped 9.50 (0.52 percent) to 1,848.38, edging past the prior record of 1,848.36.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 108.08 (0.66 percent) to 16,481.94, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index increased 31.87 (0.76 percent) to 4,214.38.

Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital, said the Federal Reserve's "Beige Book" survey pointed to stronger economic conditions throughout the US.

Cardillo also cited a report from the New York Federal Reserve bank that showed rising manufacturing activity in New York state. The World

Bank also upgraded its 2014 economic growth forecast.

Stocks are rising due to "an improving economy, good prospects for earnings season and a theme that there is still no place to put your money" outside of equities, Cardillo said.

Bank of America rose 2.3 percent after reporting an eightfold increase in quarterly earnings as set-asides for reserves fell due to improved credit quality. The US banking giant earned 29 cents per share, up 3 cents from analyst forecasts.

Other leading banks also rallied on better sentiment towards the sector, including Dow component JPMorgan Chase (+3.0 percent), Wells Fargo (+1.3 percent) and Citigroup (+1.9 percent).

General Motors fell 1.6 percent after forecasting "modest" global industry growth in 2014 and projecting a big rise

in restructuring costs. The US auto giant announced late Tuesday that it would pay its first corporate dividend since the 2008 government rescue on March 28.

Apple rose 2.0 percent as it prepared to market iPhones to more Chinese consumers following a major deal with China Mobile. Chief executive Tim Cook told news outlets the launch was a "watershed moment" for the company.

Separately, Apple agreed to refund at least \$32.5 million to US customers for children's purchases from its online App Store without parental consent in a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission.

Bond prices fell slightly. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury rose to 2.88 percent from 2.87 percent, while the 30-year rose to 3.81 percent from 3.80 percent. Bond prices and yields move inversely.

Sex workers in Spain register to pay taxes

MADRID (AFP) - Prostitutes in the Spanish tourist island Ibiza have formed a sex workers' cooperative to pay taxes and gain social security benefits -- the first such group legally registered in Spain, they say.

Eleven women registered with local authorities as working members of the Sealeer Cooperative providing sexual services, said their spokeswoman, Maria Jose Lopez.

"We are pioneers," she told AFP. "We are the first cooperative in Spain that can give legal cover to the girls."

The 11 active sex workers who registered in November are women in their 20s and 30s from Spain, Italy and "the East", she said, declining to elaborate.

A 42-year-old local housewife, Lopez is not a sex worker herself but registered as a member of Sealeer to act as a voluntary representative for the women, who refuse to speak to reporters.

Like any workers' cooperative, Sealeer members declare their income and pay taxes, which entitles them to public healthcare, a pension and other benefits.

A parliamentary report on prostitution in 2007 said Spaniards spent 50 million euros (\$68 million) a day on prostitutes, of which it estimated there were 400,000 working in the country -- the latest such figures available.

have introduced fines for picking up prostitutes in the street and Madrid is planning to do the same.

The cooperative "is a way to give the women independence from the gangs of pimps, for women who choose to exercise this profession", said Gloria Poyatos, a former employment lawyer who advised the prostitutes in Ibiza.

Prostitutes can register as workers in Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands and in some cases claim social benefits.

Despite prostitution being tolerated in practice in Spain, the issue is divisive.

Authorities in Barcelona



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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



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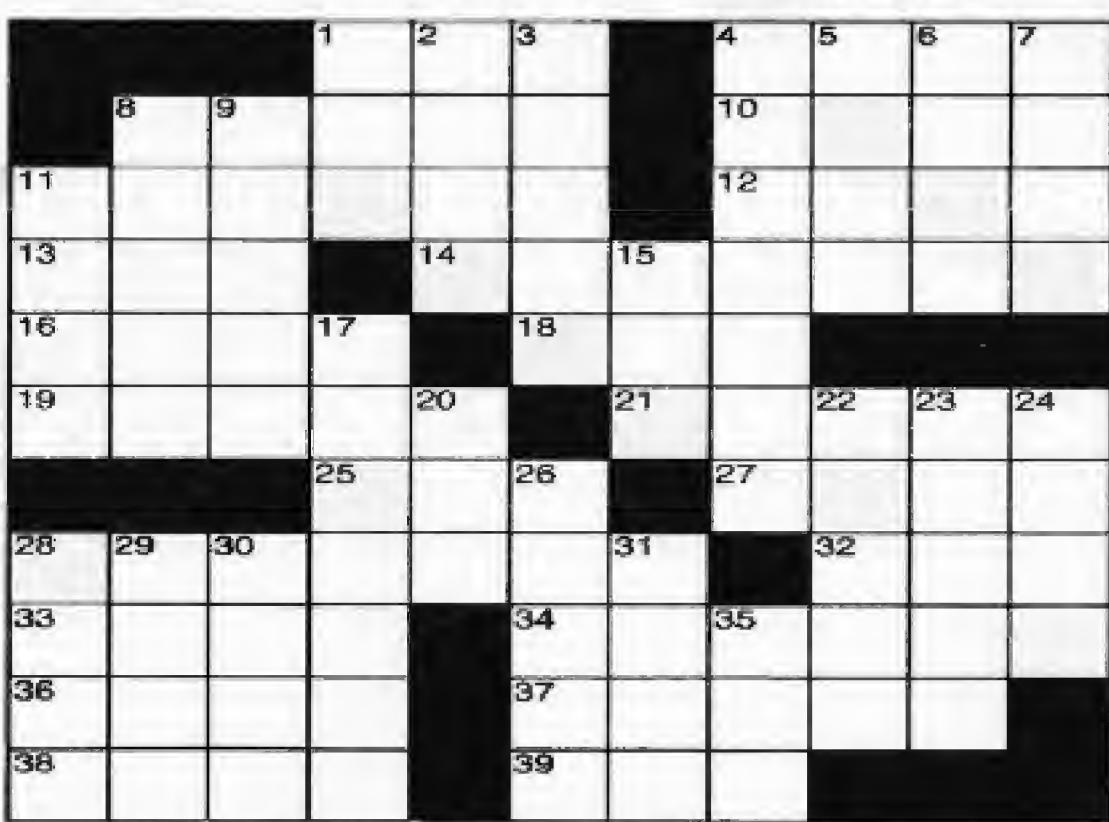
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ACROSS

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 21 Elopers tie
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 25 Org. that
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 motorists
 27 Biblical
 prophet
 28 Pull ___ up
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DOWN
 1 Tic-___-toe
 2 Load



bootstraps

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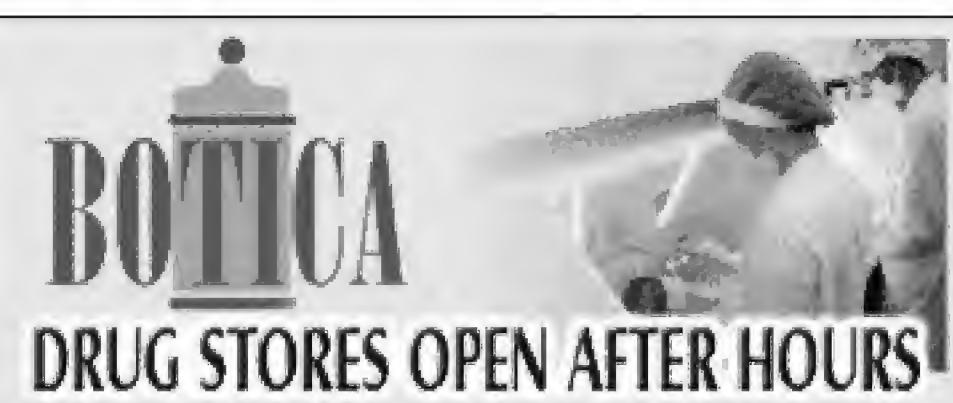
3 Three-card

4 "Rose-
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 8 Picasso's
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 22 Pure air
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 Spencer
 24 Purpose
 26 From ___ to
 omega
 28 Butter dish
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 29 Flaring star
 30 Rewrite
 31 Leaping
 amphibian
 35 ___ bind (2
 wds.)

SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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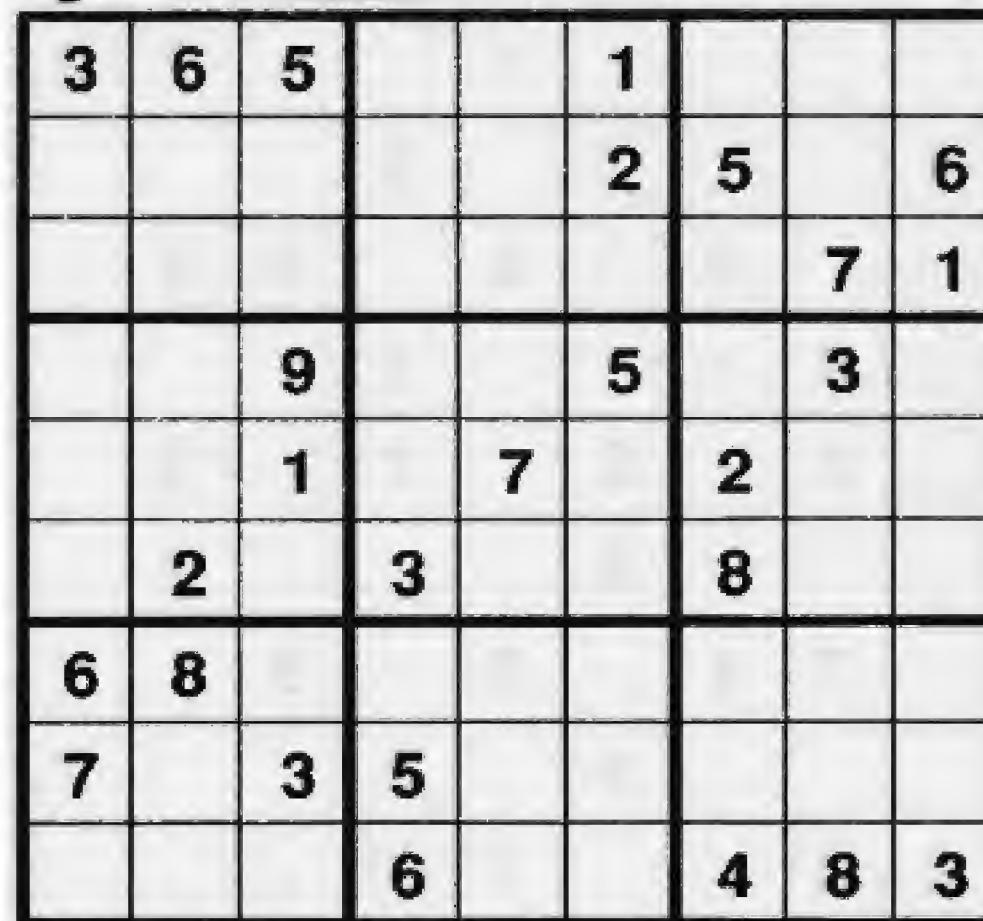


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Sudoku



After 3 decades, Buccaneer is still an island favorite

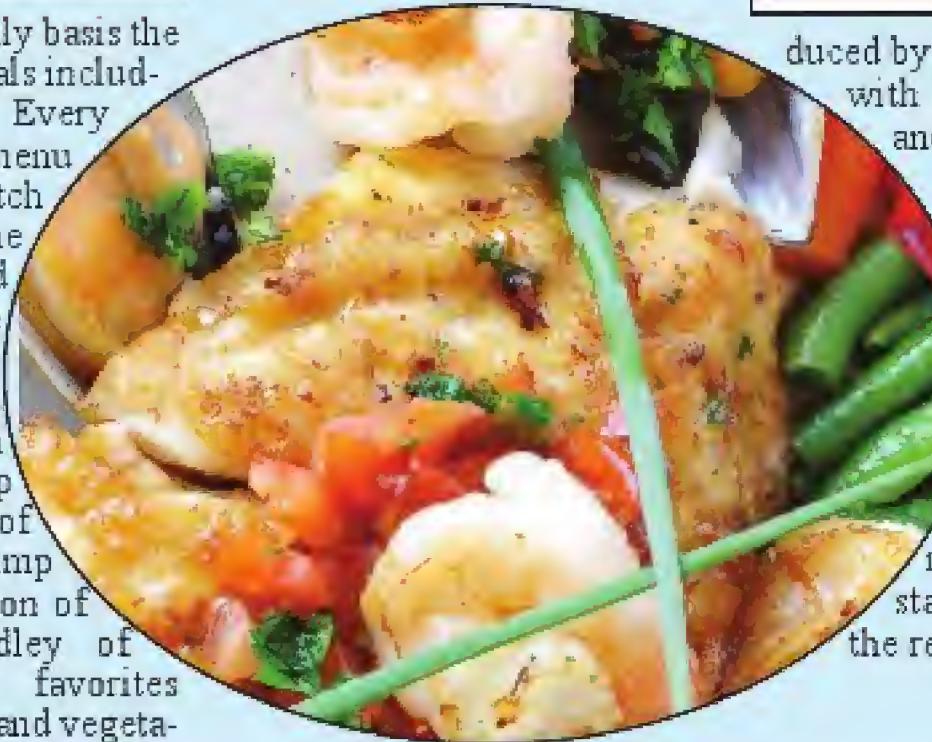


-- The Buccaneer Restaurant is a legendary favorite from day one that the doors opened 35 years ago. The nautical, laid back restaurant located in-between the high and low rise hotels in Aruba. The restaurant is owned and run by Josef Munzenhofer, a local Aruban who kept many of the father's traditional recipes and added new entrees. The menu is a wide and varied menu that is focused mainly on fresh caught local seafood dishes and for the non seafood lover's, poultry, lamb, angus cut beef, pasta

and duck. On a daily basis the chef creates specials including a daily soup. Every food item on the menu is made from scratch every day. Some popular food choices are the "Barracuda Meunière" with a light caper lemon sauce, "Shrimp Trio" your choice of three types of shrimp entrees, "Seduction of the sea" a medley of grilled seafood favorites served with pasta and vegeta-

bles, Ceviche & Escargot are among the best sellers for appetizers and if you love rack of lamb with mint sauce than feast on this.

The restaurant has a welcoming, nautical feel with an extensive 18,000 gallon aquarium wall in the main dining room and smaller aquariums at the cozy booth, coastal maps, diving helmet, old fashion compass, shells and the eye stopper bar pro-



Fish



Surf & Turf

duced by the owner himself with tables to match, and so much more.

Planning a party or special event than Buccaneer is the right choice for you. Checkout the website with a video included of the legendary restaurant that stands out from all the rest.

The Buccaneer kitchen is open Monday through Saturday 5:30-10:00 pm & Early Bird from 5:30-7:00 pm, closed on Sundays.

Buccaneer is known for their reasonable prices and their along with a top-notch team who have kept satisfied guests coming back.

The restaurant location is 11C Gasparito. Making a reservation is easy just call 586-6172 . email - buccaneeraruba@yahoo.

UK television stars in court to face sex charges

LONDON (AFP) - Three ageing stars of British television appeared in separate courts Tuesday, all accused of raping or assaulting women and young girls. Australian entertainer Rolf Harris, TV soap star William Roache and veteran presenter Dave Lee Travis deny the charges against them, most of which date back several decades. Roache, 81, is the world's longest-serving soap star, having played character Ken Barlow in the ITV show "Coronation Street" since its first episode in 1960. As his trial in Preston, northwest England got under way Tuesday, prosecutors claimed Roache used his fame to rape or sexually assault five girls who were aged as young as 11 at the time, in the 1960s and 1970s. Roache denies five counts of indecent assault and two counts of rape involving five girls aged between 11 or 12 and 16. Meanwhile prosecutors told the trial of Dave Lee Travis that the former BBC star had assaulted young women while live on television and in his radio studio. The 68-year-old, one of the biggest names in British broadcasting during the 1970s and 1980s, denies assaulting 11 women, one of whom says she was underage at the time. In London, Australian-born Harris denied 12 counts of indecent assault. All except one of the cases involve women who were aged under 16, the age of sexual consent in Britain. The 83-year-old musician, presenter and artist -- who once painted a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and who has been honoured by both Britain and his native Australia -- has yet to make a plea on four additional charges of making an indecent image of a child in 2012. Harris is due to go on trial on April 30 accused of assaulting four women between 1968 and 1986. One of the charges relates to a girl who was only seven or eight at the time of the alleged assault. Travis and Harris are among several ageing celebrities arrested under Operation Yewtree, the British police probe into historical abuse set up in the wake of revelations that the late BBC star Jimmy Savile was a prolific sex offender. Roache was not arrested as part of the operation. Comedian Freddie Starr, 71, was arrested for a third time on Tuesday under Operation Yewtree, police said.

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BRIEFS:



MANCHESTER (AFP) - Manchester City's English defender Micah Richards (L) heads the ball wide of the goal during the English FA Cup Third Round Replay football match between Manchester City and Blackburn Rovers at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester yesterday. Manchester City swept past second-tier Blackburn Rovers with an emphatic 5-0 victory



LYON (AFP) - Lyon's French forward Bafetimbi Gomis (2ndL) vies with Marseille's French goalkeeper Steve Mandanda (C) and Marseille's French defender Jeremy Morel (R) during the French League Cup quarter final football match between Olympique Lyonnais (OL) and Olympique de Marseille (OM) on January 15, 2014, at the Gerland Stadium in Lyon, central-eastern France. Lyon's sank Marseille 2-1.

Tennis: Djokovic, Williams run hot in Melbourne

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Title favourites Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams shrugged off a second day of intense heat to reach the Australian Open third round Wednesday alongside China's Li Na.

Djokovic, watched by new coach Boris Becker, flew past against Argentina's Leonardo Mayer 6-0, 6-4, 6-4, extending his Melbourne streak to 23 straight wins.

With temperatures close to 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) Williams also took the fast route with a 63-minute demolition of Serbia's Vesna Dolonc.

Li, twice a finalist at Melbourne Park, subdued a challenge from Swiss teenager Belinda Bencic, touted as the new Martina Hingis, to make the third round for the fifth

year in a row.

Spanish third seed David Ferrer beat France's Adrian Mannarino to progress alongside Tomas Berdych, the world number seven, who downed Kenny De Schepper.

Ice packs and energy drinks remained in high demand after Canada's Frank Dancevic fainted and China's Peng Shuai vomited in extreme temperatures on Tuesday.

After a tournament-record nine withdrawals in the first round, Croatia's Ivan Dodig became the latest casualty when he pulled out with cramp in the fourth set of his match against Damir Dzumhur.

Despite complaints about the heat, which is forecast to remain for another two days, organisers have baulked at halting play, saying humidity

is low enough to mitigate any risk.

Williams also lived up to her destructive reputation against Dolonc as she goes in search of her 18th Grand Slam title, a tally which would match Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. Li raced through her first set against the 16-year-old Bencic, but was forced to fight for the second before taking the match 6-0, 7-6 (7/5).

The former French Open champion admitted she was not at her best but said she was glad to make it through and escape the steamy conditions in straight sets.

Ferrer dropped the second set against Mayer but came back to win 7-6 (7/2), 5-7, 6-0, 6-3 in a typically dogged display.

Jeremy Chardy prompted a racquet-smashing fit from Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgopolov when he edged their ultra-tight four-setter, which included three tie-breaks.

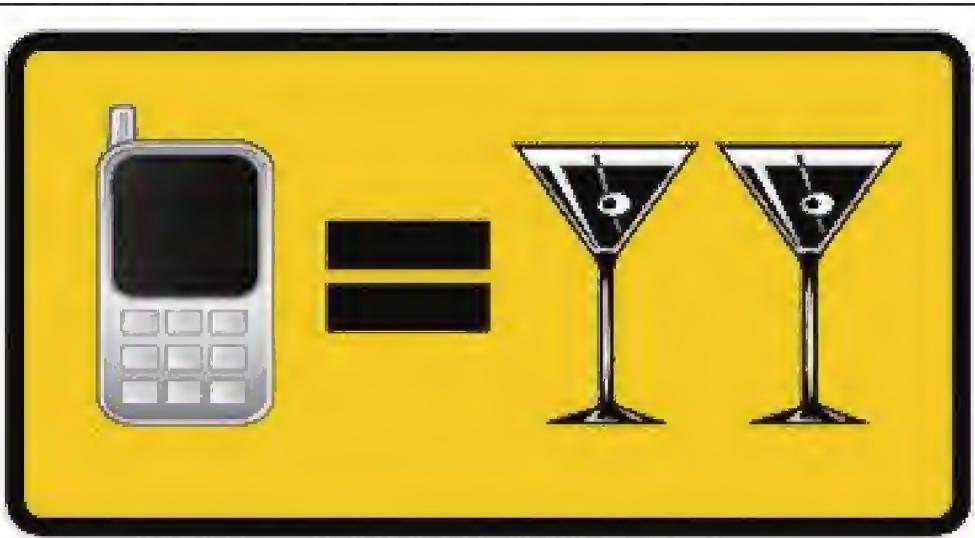
Big-serving Polish 20th seed Jerzy Janowicz ousted Spain's Pablo Andujar in four sets, and French ninth seed Richard Gasquet beat Russian veteran Nikolay Davydenko in three.

Among the evening matches, eighth seed Stanislas Wawrinka battled past Alejandro Falla in four sets, and Serbia's Ana Ivanovic thrashed Annika Beck 6-1, 6-2.



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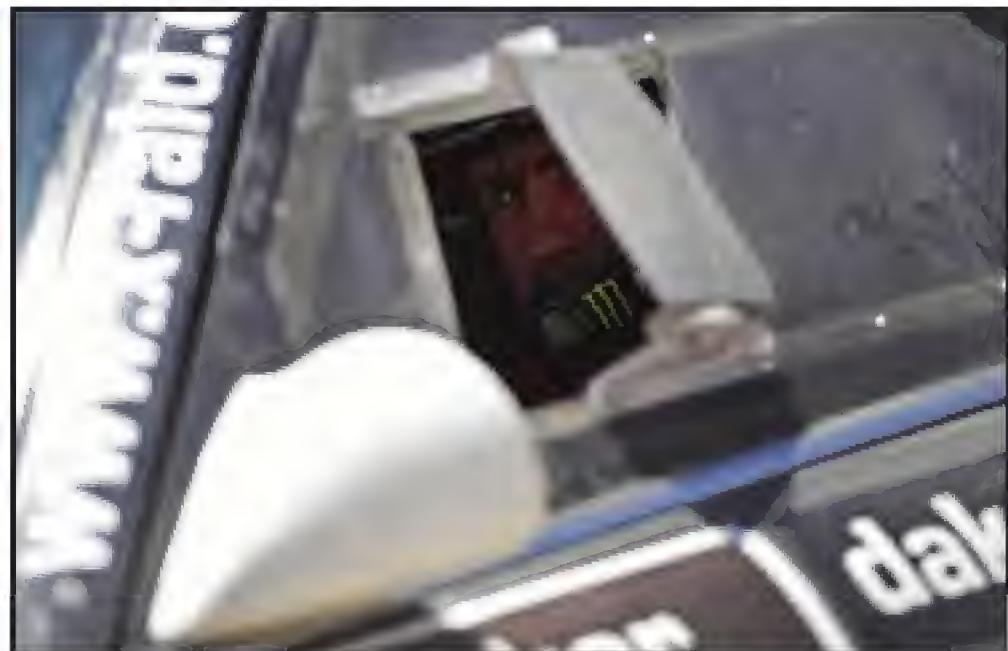
Rallying: Peterhansel looms large on Roma's horizon in Dakar

ANTOFAGASTA (AFP) - France's Dakar Rally legend Stephane Peterhansel took a huge step towards winning the race for a 12th time after finishing second in Wednesday's 10th stage.

Peterhansel, six times a winner in the motorbike section and five times in the cars event, finished second in his Mini in the stage behind Qatar's former winner Nasser Al-Attiyah to move to just over two minutes adrift of overall leader Nani Roma.

For Al-Attiyah it was a second stage win in three days but the 46-year-old Peterhansel celebrated eating further into Roma's lead.

He trailed the Spaniard by 40 minutes after the fifth stage but made significant moves on



Tuesday and then Wednesday and, with just three stages remaining, appears to have the momentum.

Earlier, Spanish rally great Carlos Sainz abandoned the race after crashing and injuring himself.

The 51-year-old two-time world rally champion and winner of the Dakar in 2010 was taken to the rally medical centre, according to event organisers.

His vehicle, an SMG buggy, was badly damaged.

"He was slightly injured and evacuated to the medical centre at the Antofagasta bivouac (where the stage finished)," said the organisers.

Sainz, nicknamed the 'Mata-dor' for his aggressive style of driving, was way off the pace even before the stage, trailing compatriot Roma by 3hrs 28mins.

In the motorcycle section, Spanish rider Joan Barreda won his third stage of this year's edition but remains a long shot to win the Rally itself.

The 30-year-old Honda rider, who finished second in the two previous stages, remains second in the overall standings almost 45 minutes behind his compatriot Marc Coma, who was fifth on the day.

Barreda, winner of four

stages last year, finished in front of Portuguese veteran Helder Rodrigues while five-time Dakar winner Cyril Despres of France was third.

Despres' chances of a sixth win evaporated when he had engine trouble in the fourth stage and he lies sixth overall, almost two and a half hours in arrears.

The 58-year-old Caldwell will replace Jim Schwartz, who was fired.

Caldwell had a successful two-year run as the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts from 2009-10, taking the team to Super Bowl XLIV in his first season.

The coach also won a Super Bowl with the Colts in 2006 as an assistant under Tony Dungy.

He was named Indianapolis's head coach following Dungy's

retirement after the 2008 season.

Caldwell compiled a 26-22 overall record during his three-year stint in charge of the Colts, highlighted by a 14-2 season in 2009.

NFL: Lions hire Caldwell as head coach

DETROIT (AFP) - The Detroit Lions' two-week search for a new head coach ended Tuesday with the hiring of Jim Caldwell, the National Football League team said.

The 58-year-old Caldwell will replace Jim Schwartz, who was fired.

Caldwell had a successful two-year run as the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts from 2009-10, taking the team to Super Bowl XLIV in his first season.

The coach also won a Super Bowl with the Colts in 2006 as an assistant under Tony Dungy. He was named Indianapolis's head coach following Dungy's

retirement after the 2008 season.

Caldwell compiled a 26-22 overall record during his three-year stint in charge of the Colts, highlighted by a 14-2 season in 2009.

Alpine skiing: Women's Garmisch races rescheduled for Cortina

WENGEN (AFP) - The women's races cancelled in Garmisch-Partenkirchen because of a lack of snow have been re-scheduled for January 25-26 in the Italian resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo, organisers said.

It means Cortina will hold two successive weekends of racing, the women already in situ for a downhill and a super-G this Saturday and Sunday.

That programme will be mimicked the following weekend to make up for the Garmisch races, with downhill training to be held on January 23-24, the International Ski Federation said.

Chess to be featured on Betico Day with 3 tournaments

ORANJESTAD - The Chess Federation will be celebrating Betico Day with a weekend tournament on the 24th to the 26th of January. Various rounds will be played, five in all on Friday, the first day. On the Saturday two rounds, and on Sunday also two rounds. They will play in the U-16 and Open categories. Registration will be on Thursday 16th and 23rd of January from 8:00 to 11:00 at the Nieuwstraat Club House. The cost for U-16 is Afsl.10,00 and for Open that is Afsl.15,00. The tournament begins on Friday the 24th of January with an opening ceremony at 7:45pm. U-16 and the Open Group will be the first round on Friday from 8:00 -11:30. The next day, Saturday the second round will be from 10:00 - 1:30pm and the third round will be from 2:00 to 5:30pm. Closing and prize presentation will be from 5:30 - 6:00pm. There will be prizes for the first 3 places in the Open and U-16 group. All games will be played in the Club House on Nieuwstraat 11, in Oranjestad. They want to remind all players that the Betico Croes Cup tournament will count towards the local rating and for FAA points.



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Football: Messi still the best for Martino

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona boss Gerardo Martino has insisted that in his opinion Lionel Messi remains the best player in the world despite Cristiano Ronaldo being awarded the Ballon d'Or on Monday.

Messi missed a large chunk of 2013 due to muscle injuries, but still only missed out on football's highest individual accolade by little more than two percent in the voting to the Portuguese.

And whilst Martino congratulated Ronaldo on winning the prize for a second time, he backed Messi to bounce back in 2014.

"It is one thing to be the player rewarded for one year and another to be the best and we have the best," he said ahead of Barca's Copa del Rey last 16, second-leg tie against Getafe on Thursday.

Messi has made two substitute appearances in the past week on his return from two months out with a torn hamstring and all but put the tie against Getafe to bed with two late goals to give the Catalans a commanding 4-0 advantage going into the second-leg.

However, despite Barca's advantage, Martino hinted that his compatriot could start for the first time this year at the Alfonso Perez Coliseum today.

Andres Iniesta has been left out of the squad to travel to Madrid due to the knock to the knee he picked up in the 0-0 draw away to Atletico Madrid on Saturday, whilst Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba are rested.

Boxing: Broner-Maidana rematch could set up Khan-Mayweather

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Fight fans have waited for months to see who will fight unbeaten US welterweight star Floyd Mayweather next, but rival Adrien Broner might have already made the decision for him.

And it could set the stage for a Mayweather showdown with Britain's Amir Khan in May.

Broner revealed that he has exercised a rematch clause in his contract to again face Argentina's Marcos Maidana,

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who took the World Boxing Association crown from him by unanimous decision December 14 at San Antonio.

"Minor set back for a major come back," Broner said on his Twitter page. "This rematch will be great."

Mayweather has hinted that either Maidana or Khan would be his next opponent for a planned May 3 bout in Las Vegas while denying reports that he might make a deal to fight Filipino icon Manny Pac-

quiao, whose promoter Bob Arum is someone Mayweather has vowed not to work with.

Mayweather, 45-0 with 26 knockouts, beat Mexico's previously undefeated Saul "Canelo" Alvarez by unanimous decision last September for the WBA and World Boxing Council light middleweight titles, setting pay-per-view income records in the process.

ESPN reported on its website that Golden Boy Promotions is looking at an April 19

or April 26 rematch date in Los Angeles or San Antonio, which would take Maidana out of the running to face Mayweather in early May.

Broner exercised his rematch option of Friday, ESPN said, but Maidana posted a Twitter message on Saturday saying nothing was settled.

"We don't have anything confirmed for next fight," Maidana posted. "Not a rival, not a date. Now it's resting time and evaluation of best options."

Maidana, 35-3 with 31 knockouts, twice knocked down Broner, 27-1 with 22 knockouts, in their meeting last month.

Khan, 28-3 with 19 knockouts, withdrew from a planned fight last December with US southpaw Devon Alexander, fueling speculation he would be the next foe for Mayweather. The 27-year-old Englishman has not fought since beating Julio Diaz in England last April.